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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
PNW - FSL

REPLY TO: 4500 Forest Insect Research

December 22, 1977

SUBJECT: "Spinoffs" from DFTM Research on Pheromones

TO: K. H. Wright
Program Manager
Portland

I'm not certain of how specific to get here but some obvious "spin-offs" of far-reaching implications are as follows:

(1) In addition to Orgyia pseudotsugata, the DFTM pheromone is also a very strong sex attractant for these species:

O. cana	western TM
O. antiqua	rusty TM
O. leucostigma	white marked TM
Dasychira plagiata	pine TM
D. grisefacta ella	--
D. vagans grisea	--

All of these (with the possible exception of the last two) can be economically significant in various parts of the world. The availability of a known synthetic pheromone is of course a very valuable tool in researching and managing related problems.

(2) Detection trapping with pheromone greatly extended and better defined the known range of DFTM. I don't think that result was originally anticipated at the outset of the Program.

(3) The detection of DFTM at so many trapping locations, confirmed the insects presence at low-levels throughout most of the host type. This provides strong evidence that outbreaks build-up in place as opposed to resulting from massive immigration by windborne larvae from some obscure, mysterious location. In other words the trapping demonstrated that the bug is always there, populations do not crash totally out of existence after outbreaks, and new outbreaks build up in place.

I think those are the most obvious "spin-off" items.

GARY E. DATERMAN
Project Leader